

Multi-country grants provide essential funding for advocacy to increase national and regional support for harm reduction.

Regional commitments to harm reduction - West Africa

Within the PARECO grant,¹⁴ the Alliance Nationale des Communautés pour la Santé collaborated with the West African Commission on Drugs to convene a high-level meeting in September 2018 to launch the *Model Drug Law for West Africa – A tool for policymakers*.¹⁵ The meeting resulted in the signing of the “Dakar Appeal”, a declaration of commitment on harm reduction encouraging countries to comply with internationally ratified conventions and implement harm reduction measures, including the regional level guidelines on harm reduction for people who inject drugs, developed through PARECO.

Multi-country grants support learning exchanges on budget advocacy to increase government investment in harm reduction, which is critical in the context of transition.

Building evidence to inform budget advocacy - Asia

The Harm Reduction Advocacy in Asia¹⁶ grant funded local research into harm reduction investment and law enforcement spending within countries in the region, with tools and support from Harm Reduction International. This evidence is informing advocacy at the national and regional level for governments to critically evaluate their drug policy expenditure and to redirect a small proportion of funds from ineffective drug control to lifesaving and cost-effective harm reduction interventions. Initiated under a regional Global Fund grant, this innovative initiative, now leverages funding from the Elton John AIDS Foundation and the Dutch Government.

2. Matching funds

The matching funds mechanism allows the Global Fund to use their influence as a donor to incentivise investment in evidenced based prevention programmes for key populations, such as harm reduction, where political will is often lacking.

We urge the Global Fund to track the extent to which matching funds have led to investment in key population programming, including harm reduction. It is imperative that this mechanism enables the Global Fund to incentivise investment in harm reduction where this is needed most.

3. Strategic initiatives

This mechanism supports the success of country allocations that cannot be funded through country grants.

Supporting people who use drugs to engage in Global Fund processes – International Network of People who Use Drugs (INPUD)

The INPUD project, funded through the Community, Rights and Gender Strategic Initiative, empowers people who use drugs with knowledge, skills, and an understanding of Global Fund processes, to strengthen advocacy and improve the quality of harm reduction services. This leads to increased confidence and negotiating skills, improved credibility with policy and decision makers, more effective partnership development, and ultimately catalyzes programming and financing sustainability of services for and by people who use drugs. Due to such initiatives, the number of representatives of people who use drugs in the Global Fund Country Coordinating Mechanism’s (CCM) increased in the Asia-Pacific, Eastern Europe and Central Asian and sub-Saharan African region, leading to enhanced influence of communities to shape rights-based programming for people who use drugs.

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¹⁴ Managed by ANCS and implemented in Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau and Senegal.

¹⁵ <http://www.osiwa.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/WACD-MDL-EN-WEB.pdf>

¹⁶ Managed by the India HIV/AIDS Alliance, this grant operates in seven countries in Asia and runs from 2017-2019.